

CITYVIEW

City of Hamilton Planning and Development Department

1996

OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL PLAN

It is Hamilton's blueprint for the future. The Official Plan guides and shapes development in the City of Hamilton. It is the Planning Department's main tool to create a better living environment for Hamiltonians.

WHAT DOES THE OFFICIAL PLAN DO?

The Official Plan deals with many issues but most importantly, it provides a "picture" of the City's future and how we are going to get there. Where you live, where you work, where you shop - these are important activities which are detailed in the Official Plan. It also provides direction on other important elements of our "urban environment", such as:

- ☆ the downtown;
- ☆ the preservation of older buildings;
- ☆ the protection of the Niagara Escarpment;

- ☆ the promotion of bike paths and rail trails;
- ☆ the number of and type of parks the City should have;
- ☆ how a neighbourhood plan should be developed.

What our City looks like affects everyone! It is through this document that citizens and the business community express their "vision" for the future of Hamilton.

HOW LONG HAS THE CITY HAD AN OFFICIAL PLAN?

The first Official Plan was prepared in 1945 and it was formally adopted by the City in 1951. As the City grew in size through the annexations of adjacent townships (i.e., Barton and Saltfleet), the Plan was revised to establish land uses for the new areas. In 1982, a major review was completed to place all the revisions together in one comprehensive document.



HAMILTON'S PLAN FOR TOMORROW

Process and Timing of

WHY DOES THE OFFICIAL PLAN NEED TO BE REVIEWED AGAIN?

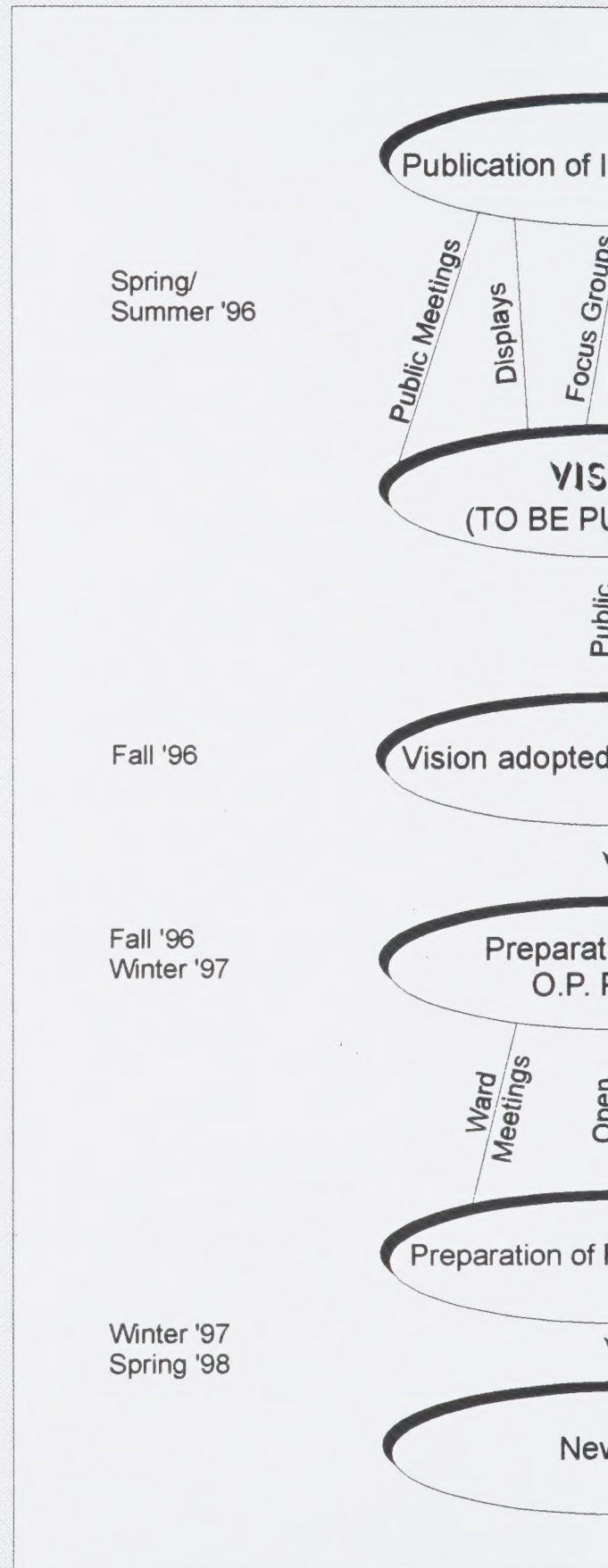
Change, change, change! There have been many changes in economic, land use and social conditions over the last decade. The City's current Official Plan was approved by the Province on June 1, 1982 and so it needs to be updated to reflect a new "vision" for the 21st century.

Some of changes you may have noticed include:

- a greater concern for the environment by citizens and government;
- a greater commitment to developing a "sustainable community" (i.e., recycling, using the bus, etc.);
- a greater focus on social and quality-of-life issues (i.e., health, education, etc.);
- a shift in the commercial retail trends, the growth of retail warehousing (i.e., Costco/Price Club);
- the restructuring of the economy which has resulted in the decline of manufacturing.

Other changes you may not be aware of, but are equally important, include:

- the adoption of the new Region of Hamilton-Wentworth Official Plan in 1994 titled *Towards a Sustainable Region*. This document provides a general direction to municipalities as they update their OP's; and,



Official Plan Review

Issue Brochures

Open House
Media

Public
Input

ON
(PUBLISHED)

Public
Input

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Provincial Ministries, Agencies,
Regional/Local Departments Input.

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Houses
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Public
Input

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OP

- the introduction of new planning policy directions from the Province in 1996 on matters dealing with housing, the environment, infrastructure, etc.

All these changes are very important when the City maps its new direction for the next century.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS FOR THE NEW OFFICIAL PLAN?

We have a name for the Plan.

CityView: Hamilton's Plan for Tomorrow

Just as the name suggests, *CityView* is a "View" of our future City. It will be the guide to the City's strategy for the next century. The new Plan must recognize current and future economic/land use/social trends while balancing the needs of the community. For example, how do home-based commercial uses fit into the fabric of a residential area? How will the Plan balance these uses?

HOW AND WHEN DO I GET INVOLVED IN THE OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW?

Everyone needs to get involved - citizens, businesses, special interest groups, agencies, organizations. We must create a City-wide "Vision"! There will be a number of different occasions to get involved with the Review. One of the most important steps is the "Vision". Without this "Vision", we cannot create a new meaningful Official Plan!



HAMILTON'S PLAN FOR TOMORROW

WHAT DOES THE OFFICIAL PLAN MEAN TO ME?

The Official Plan means something different to everybody. To the developer, it identifies those areas where he can establish houses, malls, industries etc. To the home owner, it provides a sense of community by highlighting what uses will be around and near him. For the planner, it provides direction as to the future face of the City.

To help everyone understand the focus of the Official Plan, we will be publishing a number of brochures on the following topics:

- Introduction to Planning
 - A Guide to City Planning
 - The Official Plan Review
 - Vision
- The Downtown
 - Perspectives on Growth
 - Neighbourhoods
- Employment Centres and Economic Activities
 - Industrial Areas
 - Commercial Areas
 - Mixed Use Areas
- Residential Areas
 - Neighbourhoods
 - Housing and Residential Development
- Open Space and Parks
- Institutional and Community Services
- Environmental Strategy
 - Issues and Choices
 - Contaminated Sites, Noise, Air/Water Quality etc.
- Transportation
 - Roads
 - Other modes of transportation
- Infrastructure (sewers, water, storm water management)
- Heritage Planning
- People and Public Spaces
- Quality-of-Life Issues (Health, Social)

For further information on this brochure, please contact Keith Exance at (905) 546-4158.

CITYVIEW

CityView Hamilton's Plan for Tomorrow is your opportunity to present your ideas and thoughts on the future of Hamilton.

Your ideas will ultimately form the basis of a new Official Plan for the City of Hamilton.

Staff of Hamilton's Planning and Development Department are available to answer your questions on any facet of CityView.

Ways to Contact Us...

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